

healthcare system to recruiters for possible placement in VA medical facilities with open positions.

Mr. Speaker, I am glad to support this bill today. I hope all of my colleagues will do the same on both sides of the aisle.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers. I am prepared to close, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, I did have a speaker here that was en route, but I will close.

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate this bill. I appreciate the people who worked on this bill, and I encourage all of my colleagues to support it.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I ask all of my colleagues to join me in passing this important piece of legislation, S. 894, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 894.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

JENNIFER MORENO DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS MEDICAL CENTER AND DESIGNATION HONORING KATHLEEN MAE BRUYERE

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3665) to designate the medical center of the Department of Veterans Affairs in San Diego, California, as the Jennifer Moreno Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center, and to support the designation of a component of such medical center in honor of Kathleen Bruyere.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3665

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) As of January 2021, of 1,255 health care facilities of the Department of Veterans Affairs, two are named for women veterans.

(2) From 2002 through 2006, Jennifer Madai Moreno was an active member of the San Diego High School Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (JROTC), which is a Department of the Army Honor Unit with Distinction, the highest rating by the Army. She was also chosen to be a member of the San Diego Unified School District Brigade Staff. As a high school senior, she rose quickly to become the top junior marksman in California through the Civilian Marksmanship Program.

(3) Moreno accepted a JROTC scholarship to the University of San Francisco (USF) for

Nursing, becoming the first person in her family to go to college. While at USF, she was chosen for Leadership Development Training. She ultimately achieved the highest level of physical fitness in her ROTC unit.

(4) Following her graduation from USF with a Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing in 2010, Moreno received her commission in the United States Army as a Second Lieutenant Nurse Corps Officer.

(5) Upon commissioning, Moreno served as a Gold Bar Recruiter from July 2010 to September 2010.

(6) Moreno was chosen to attend and completed the Basic Airborne Course in Fort Benning, Georgia and Army Medical Department Officer Basic Course at Ft. Sam Houston, Texas.

(7) Moreno was then assigned to Madigan Army Medical Center, Joint Base Lewis McCord, Washington in January 2011, where she served as a Clinical Staff Nurse on medical-surgical unit. Moreno earned her certification as a Medical Surgical Registered Nurse in February 2011.

(8) Moreno volunteered for a position with U.S. Army Special Operations Command in 2011. She was selected into the SOC Cultural Support Team program. She was deployed to Afghanistan in June 2013 with the Army's 75th Ranger Regiment.

(9) On October 6, 2013, Moreno was attached to a U.S. Army Ranger unit on a night mission in the Zhari district in Kandahar province to capture a high-value target when four explosive devices were triggered.

(10) During the last moments of Moreno's life, she reportedly heard a call to help a wounded soldier struck by a blast. Moreno did not hesitate to respond to the call for help. As she made her way to help a fallen soldier, she triggered the fifth explosion, which ended her life.

(11) Moreno was the first Nurse CST member to die in action. Part of her legacy is the number of young women coming from medical fields seeking out voluntary assignments to join the CST program.

(12) Moreno was the first combat casualty to be buried at Fort Rosecrans National Cemetery in San Diego since the post-9/11 conflicts began. She received full military honors.

(13) After graduating from college in 1966, Kathleen Mae Bruyere was accepted into U.S. Navy Officer Candidate School, after which she was assigned as an on-campus Navy recruiting officer in California.

(14) Bruyere was named to the staff of Rear Admiral Allen Hill in 1975, becoming the first woman to serve as flag secretary to an admiral.

(15) In January 1976, Bruyere was chosen as one of 12 Women of the Year on the cover of Time Magazine.

(16) In 1977, Bruyere joined five other women officers who sued the United States Secretary of the Navy and the United States Secretary of Defense over restrictions that prevented women from serving on combat aircraft and ships. This led to the 1948 Women's Armed Services Integration Act being struck down as unconstitutional, overturning a ban on women serving at sea.

(17) In 1987, as Special Assistant to the Chief of Naval Operations for women's policy, Bruyere helped conduct an examination of the status of Navy women, including career opportunities and complaints of sexism. The study led to 9,000 sea-duty and command jobs opening up for women on 24 combatant ships.

(18) In 1991, Bruyere was assigned as Commanding Officer for the Navy Recruit Training Command at Orlando, Florida. At the time, it was the Navy's only boot camp that included women. Bruyere oversaw the train-

ing of 30,000 enlistees, one third of them women.

(19) In 1994, Bruyere retired from the Navy as a Captain after 28 years of service.

(20) From 2012 until shortly before her death in September 2020, Bruyere was an active volunteer at Miramar National Cemetery, devoting almost 4,300 hours to helping visitors locate their loved ones' graves and providing information about veterans' burial benefits.

(21) Bruyere was buried at Miramar National Cemetery with full military honors.

(22) In May 2021, a panel of San Diego-area members of the Armed Forces, veterans, and military spouses recommended that the San Diego VA Medical Center be renamed in honor of Jennifer Moreno and an internal space be renamed in honor of Kathleen Bruyere.

SEC. 2. DESIGNATION OF JENNIFER MORENO DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS MEDICAL CENTER.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The medical center of the Department of Veterans Affairs in San Diego, California, shall after the date of the enactment of this Act be known and designated as the Jennifer Moreno Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center.

(b) REFERENCE.—Any reference in any law, regulation, map, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the medical center referred to in subsection (a) shall be considered to be a reference to the Jennifer Moreno Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center.

SEC. 3. SENSE OF CONGRESS ON DESIGNATION OF MEDICAL CENTER PHYSICAL COMPONENT AFTER KATHLEEN MAE BRUYERE.

It is the sense of Congress that the Secretary of Veterans Affairs should designate a prominent physical space within the Jennifer Moreno Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center, as designated pursuant to section 2, in honor of Kathleen Mae Bruyere.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. BOST) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 3665.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the lives of Army Captain Jennifer Moreno and Navy Captain Kathleen Bruyere. I thank my colleague, the gentleman from California (Mr. LEVIN), for introducing this legislation to pay tribute to these two distinguished servicemembers who went above and beyond in their service to this Nation.

When Jennifer Moreno graduated from the University of San Francisco with a nursing degree, she joined the Army. She completed airborne training and served with Special Operations Command. As a cultural support team member, Captain Moreno was tasked with outreach to the Afghan women they encountered.

On October 5, 2013, Captain Moreno and a dozen other special operators were struck by 12 bombs in a night raid to disrupt a plot to kill civilians. While attempting to save an injured soldier, she was killed.

For her heroic acts and unwavering support of her comrades, Captain Moreno was awarded a Combat Action Badge, the Purple Heart, and the Bronze Star.

Captain Bruyere was a true change-maker. The daughter of an Army servicemember, Captain Bruyere joined the Navy following her graduation from Chestnut Hill College.

She climbed her way through the Navy's ranks, becoming the Navy's first female flag secretary. As an advocate for women servicemembers, Captain Bruyere was featured as one of Time magazine's Women of the Year in 1976.

Despite her high ranking, Captain Bruyere was limited in her ability to be promoted due to the Women's Armed Services Integration Act of 1948. In a potential career-ending move, Bruyere and five servicemembers sued the Department of Defense in 1977. The rules were deemed unconstitutional, paving the way for thousands of women to serve in leadership positions at sea. She retired at the rank of captain in 1994 and passed away on September 3, 2020.

Both Captain Moreno and Captain Bruyere exemplify the highest qualities of service and are true American patriots. I was honored to remember them both on Veterans Day.

H.R. 3665 has letters of support from the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the Disabled American Veterans, and the American Legion, and I include them in the RECORD.

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS,
June 22, 2021.

Rep. MIKE LEVIN,
Washington DC.

DEAR REP. LEVIN: On behalf of the sixty-four thousand members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Department of California, I am writing to endorse your bill, H.R. 3665 to rename the San Diego Medical Center after U.S. Army CPT Jennifer M. Moreno as the "Jennifer Moreno Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center" and support the designation of a component within the facility in honor of U.S. Navy CAPT Kathleen M. Bruyere.

It is our privilege to help recognize and support the contributions of women in military service, notably CPT Moreno, who we believe embodies the requirements necessary to rename a federal building in her honor. The panel convened in the San Diego consisting of area service members, veterans and community leaders, made the recommendation after review of CPT Moreno's distinguished service to her country, and who was ultimately killed in action during a deployment to Afghanistan in October 2013.

In addition, we endorse naming a prominent space within the facility after CAPT Bruyere, a longtime San Diego resident who helped shape the military's policies on sexual discrimination and expanding opportunities for women in the Navy.

The VFW is committed to improve VA medical centers services for women veterans through legislative advocacy and fully sup-

port your work on behalf of our nation's veterans.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

JOHN G. LOWE,
State Commander.

DEPARTMENT OF CALIFORNIA,
July 7, 2021.

Re: H.R. 3665 to rename the San Diego Medical Center

Hon. Rep. MIKE LEVIN,
Member of Congress,
Washington, DC.

DEAR REP. MIKE LEVIN: As Commander of the Department of California Disabled American Veterans representing over 70,000 DAV Life Members in the State of California and in recognition of our fallen veterans and their survivors. I am writing to endorse your bill H.R. 3665 to rename the San Diego Medical Center after U.S. Army Capt. Jennifer M. Moreno as the "Jennifer Moreno Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center" and support the designation of a component within the facility in honor of U.S. Navy Capt. Kathleen M. Bruyere.

It is our honor and privilege to recognize and support the contributions of women in armed service, notably Cpt. Moreno, who's service went above and beyond the requirements necessary to rename a federal building in her honor. DAV will never forget Capt. Moreno's service this country and ultimate sacrifice. The panel convened in the San Diego consisting of area service members, veterans, and community leaders, made the recommendation after review of Capt. Moreno's distinguished service to her country, and who was ultimately killed in action during a deployment to Afghanistan in October 2013.

In addition, we endorse naming a prominent space within the facility after Capt. Bruyere, a longtime San Diego resident who helped shape the military's policies on sexual discrimination and expanding opportunities for women in the U.S. Navy.

Thank you for your support of America's disabled veterans and their survivors.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL KERR,
Commander.
DANIEL CONTRERAS,
DAV National 3rd Vice
Commander, Adjutant/CEO.
GERALD G. WILSON, Jr.,
Legislative Director.

THE AMERICAN LEGION,
DEPARTMENT OF CALIFORNIA,
Sanger, CA, July 21, 2021.

Hon. MIKE LEVIN,
Washington, DC.

MR. LEVIN: The American Legion Department of California is proud to support H.R. 3665, which includes the renaming the San Diego Veterans Affairs Medical Center after Army Capt. Jennifer Moreno and renaming a component therein after Navy Capt. Kathleen M. Bruyere.

Since its founding in 1919, the American Legion has served veterans, servicemembers, and communities throughout our nation. Our commitment to serving all veterans has been one of the main pillars outlining our purpose. As the United States Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) continues to make strides in the way it supports and cares for women veterans, I believe by renaming VA facilities after brave female veterans it is a great step towards recognizing the contribution of this nation's woman warriors.

On behalf of the 80,000+ American Legion members in California we urge congress to

take action to rename this facility to honor these two women veterans who embody the true essence of duty and service to our community, state, and nation.

Respectfully,

AUTREY B. JAMES, Jr.,
Department Commander.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I enthusiastically support the naming of the San Diego, California, VA Medical Center in honor of Captain Moreno and Captain Bruyere, and I reserve the balance of my time.

□ 1715

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 3665, a bill to name the VA medical center in San Diego, California, the Jennifer Moreno VA Medical Center, and to support naming a component of such medical center in honor of Kathleen Bruyere.

Jennifer Moreno, a native of San Diego, California, received her initial commission in the United States Army as a Nurse Corps officer.

Jennifer was assigned to Madigan Army Medical Center at Joint Base Lewis-McChord in Washington. Jennifer served there as a clinical staff nurse in the medical-surgical unit and earned her certification as a medical-surgical registered nurse.

Following that assignment, Jennifer volunteered for and was selected into the Special Operations Command Cultural Support Team program.

Captain Moreno deployed to Afghanistan in June 2013 with the Army's 75th Ranger Regiment.

On October 6, 2013, Captain Moreno was attached to a U.S. Army Ranger unit on a night mission in the Zhari district in Kandahar province to capture a high-value target when four explosive devices were triggered.

Captain Moreno heard a call for help and did not hesitate to respond. As she made her way to help her fellow soldier, Captain Moreno triggered a fifth explosive and sadly became the first nurse Combat Support Team member to die in action.

Heroism obviously knows no gender.

It is only fitting that the San Diego VA Medical Center be renamed in Jennifer's honor.

This bill also honors Navy Captain Kathleen Mae Bruyere by naming a space within the San Diego VA Medical Center after her.

Captain Bruyere was a trailblazer who dedicated her career to advancing opportunities for servicewomen who played an instrumental role in revising restrictions that prevented women from serving on combat aircraft and ships.

Notably, Captain Bruyere helped conduct a study that led to 9,000 sea-duty and command jobs opening for women on 24 combatant ships.

And as is true for so many servicemembers, Kathleen's service did not end upon retirement from the military.

Until shortly before her death, Captain Bruyere was an active volunteer

at Miramar National Cemetery. While there, Captain Bruyere devoted almost 4,300 hours to help visitors locate their loved ones' graves and provided information about veterans' burial benefits.

By naming a dedicated space in the Jennifer Moreno VA Medical Center after Captain Bruyere today, we will further ensure that her influence and services are forever remembered.

Currently, of the 1,255 VA healthcare facilities, only two are named for women veterans. It is time to recognize the many contributions and the heroism of women who have served, especially those who made the ultimate sacrifice.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to support this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from California (Mr. LEVIN), my good friend who is back from a very warm welcome at the White House, the chairman of the Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity and also the author of the bill.

Mr. LEVIN of California. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding and for his support.

For far too long, our country has failed to give women servicemembers and veterans the recognition they have rightfully earned and deserve for their service and commitment to protecting this Nation.

For my friends and colleagues who may not know, women have served in the U.S. military since the Revolutionary War. And long before women could formally serve, hundreds of women disguised themselves as men for the opportunity to serve in the Armed Forces.

Hundreds of thousands of women answered the call to serve in World War I and World War II in any way they could. Following these invaluable contributions, women finally became permanent members of the Armed Forces in 1948.

Now there are 2 million women veterans living in the United States, and women comprise the fastest growing subpopulation of both the military and veteran populations.

Women servicemembers now make up 20 percent of military personnel. Because of this, the women veteran population is projected to grow to 18 percent of the total veteran population by 2040.

Yet, they still fail to receive the recognition they deserve for their service to our Nation.

While millions of women have served in the U.S. military, only two of VA's 1,293 healthcare facilities have been named after these brave and courageous Americans.

That is simply unacceptable.

So, in November 2020, I convened a panel of highly qualified servicemembers, veterans, and community leaders to collaborate on recommendations to rename the San Diego Veterans Affairs Medical Center.

The panel included a wide variety of local stakeholders from organizations like The American Legion, Military Order of the Purple Heart, Disabled American Veterans, and Veterans of Foreign Wars.

After an extensive effort considering many incredible women veterans who have served our country with distinction, the panel chose Captain Jennifer M. Moreno, a highly decorated combat veteran from San Diego who was killed in action during a deployment to Afghanistan in October 2013.

Jennifer Moreno was born in San Diego and was raised in Logan Heights by her single mom after the early loss of her father.

While attending San Diego High School, Moreno was an active member of the Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps for all 4 years, which is a Department of the Army Honor Unit with Distinction, the highest rating by the Army.

Following her graduation from the University of San Francisco with a bachelor of science degree in nursing in 2010, Moreno received her commission in the U.S. Army as a second lieutenant Nurse Corps officer.

Moreno was deployed to Afghanistan in June 2013 with the Army's 75th Ranger Regiment, where she was attached to a joint special operations task force as a Cultural Support Team member.

Just 3 months into her first tour, while on a night mission in Kandahar province to capture a high-value target, four explosive devices were triggered. Moreno endured these explosive devices, including a suicide explosive at a range of no more than 25 meters.

Moreno then reportedly heard two orders. One was a call to help a wounded soldier struck by a blast. The other was a command to stay put in case she was to strike another mine in the area. Moreno did not hesitate to respond to the call for help.

As Moreno made her way to help a fallen soldier, she triggered the fifth explosion, which tragically ended her life on October 6, 2013.

Moreno was the first nurse Cultural Support Team member to die in action, and part of her legacy is the number of young women coming from medical fields seeking out voluntary assignments to join the Cultural Support Team.

Jennifer Moreno was promoted posthumously to captain and was the first combat casualty to be buried at Fort Rosecrans National Cemetery in San Diego since the post-9/11 conflicts began, receiving full military honors. I was honored to visit her gravesite earlier this year.

The panel also recommended that a prominent space within the San Diego VA Medical Center be named after U.S. Navy Captain Kathleen M. Bruyere, a longtime San Diego resident who helped shape the military's policies on sexual discrimination and was instrumental in expanding opportunities for women in the Navy.

In 1977, Bruyere joined five other women officers who sued the United States Secretary of the Navy and the United States Secretary of Defense over restrictions that prevented women from serving on combat aircraft and ships. This led to the 1948 Women's Armed Services Integration Act being struck down as unconstitutional, overturning a ban on women serving at sea.

In 1987, as special assistant to the Chief of Naval Operations for women's policy, Bruyere conducted an examination of the status of Navy women, including career opportunities and complaints of sexism. The study led to 9,000 sea-duty and command jobs opening up for women on 24 combatant ships.

Bruyere retired from the Navy as a captain after 28 years of service in 1994. Last year, she passed away and was buried at Miramar National Cemetery with full military honors.

This bill expresses the sense of Congress that VA should follow through with the panel's recommendation to honor Captain Bruyere.

Although this effort does not make up for all the appreciation women veterans and servicemembers are still owed, it is my great hope that this token of gratitude inspires similar recognition across the country.

I thank Army veteran and Carlsbad resident Karin Brennan, who led this effort and exercised strong leadership in bringing stakeholders together to make recommendations for women veterans with ties to the region who are among the worthiest of receiving this honor.

But most of all, I am grateful for the service of Captain Jennifer Moreno and Captain Kathleen Bruyere.

It is my honor to share their stories on behalf of the local veterans who recommended this renaming, and I look forward to this legislation passing the House and becoming law.

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, I encourage all of my colleagues to support this legislation and for all that it stands for.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. BOST) for facilitating this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all of my colleagues to join me in passing H.R. 3665, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3665.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

COLONEL JOHN M. McHUGH TUTION FAIRNESS FOR SURVIVORS ACT OF 2021

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S.